



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Ed Collins – MCCD, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Marcella Bondie-Keenan (for Anne McKibben) – Elevate Energy, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Vincent Waller (for Deb Stone) – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Absent: Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Martin Jaffe – UIC, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Mike Sullivan – Kane / Kendall Council of Mayors, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Nancy Williamson – IDNR

Staff Present: Bob Dean, Ricardo Lopez, Kristin Ihnchak, Jason Navota, Patrick Day, Holly Hudson, Tim Loftus, Dawn Thomspson, Samyukth Shenbaga, Stephen Ostrander, Kate Evasic, Nora Beck

Others Present: C. Scott Smith – DMMC, Mike Klemens – WCGL

1.0 Call to Order

Jack Darin called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Ricardo Lopez announced the 2015 Future Leaders In Planning (FLIP) program, which will now be a week long session in July. Applications are due June 19, 2015.

Jack Darin welcomed Lynn Boerman from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to the committee.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2015

With corrections to the numbering of agenda items, a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4 meeting was made by Martha Dooley, seconded by Vincent Waller, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Local Match Requirements for LTA – Bob Dean, CMAP Staff

Bob Dean announced that the annual LTA Call for Projects was now open and discussed three changes this year. First, with funding from the MacArthur Foundation and the Cook County CDBG – Disaster Relief programming, LTA plans will be incorporating stormwater and climate change resilience planning into projects. Second, CMAP is continuing its joint call with RTA, but this year, the Cook County Department of Public Health will also be using the application process to identify projects. Lastly, Dean reviewed the recommended program change to assess a local match. Most programs like LTA, whether they offer technical assistance or grants, require some form of local match, typically making up 20% of the project cost. CMAP's program evaluation found that local commitment is a key contributor to the success of a project, and a local match contribution can help to demonstrate local commitment and increase local ownership. However, it is important to structure the match requirement in a way that does not preclude the involvement of higher-need communities. Dean went on to describe the way the local match will be administered, as outlined in this [memo](#), in more detail.

ENR committee members asked a number of questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Climate Resilience. These projects will largely work on urban flooding and stormwater issues, as those are some of the main impacts of climate change in this region. But projects will address other impacts, like drought and vulnerable populations.
- Prioritization of communities who can provide an over-match. The idea here is that if communities can provide more match, we can then use that money to work on other projects. But there will be a balance, as we want to be sure to work in areas in higher need.
- Geographic limitations. Cook County Disaster Relief funds will be limited to Cook County, but MacArthur Foundation support is regional.
- Local Match payment. Non-payment would likely result in pausing the project work.
- Level of commitment. How do you assess if a community is adequately supporting the project work? Staff has discussed benchmarks and will need to establish clear ways of identifying this.

The deadline for applications is June 25. Dean reminded members that CMAP is happy to talk with potential applicants about project ideas. Questions should be directed to [Erin Aleman](#). CMAP has already determined the local match rate according to need and this information is available upon request.

4.0 RainReady – Harriet Festing, Center for Neighborhood Technology

In response to the prevalence and cost of urban flooding, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) has developed [RainReady](#), a community planning process and tools that focus on affordable, tangible solutions to help communities manage urban flooding. Festing, using a [powerpoint presentation](#), provided an overview of the RainReady approach. RainReady prioritizes preventative approaches, such as updating zoning

ordinances, and natural solutions when possible, as they can bring wider and more cost-effective benefits to the community compared to large-scale, engineered approaches. Festing reviewed the evolution of work that has informed the RainReady approach and provided a definition of urban flooding. RainReady work is currently working in Chatham and Midlothian and has the potential to expand to 11 communities in Cook County. The program will not only include a community plan, but has budgeted for demonstration projects as well. In addition to the community planning process, RainReady is also composed of home assessments, as some home flooding issues are not larger scale issues, and RainReady alert, which is investigating the use of sensors and technology which could better predict future flooding events for infrastructure managers and homeowners. In addition, CNT has been involved with legislative efforts, including the Urban Flooding Awareness Act.

ENR committee members and CMAP staff asked a number of questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Cook County communities. CNT will ideally be working in communities with the highest need, as identified by their research.
- Buyouts. The analysis highlights that some of these areas that are currently experiencing flooding should likely have never been developed. Buyouts are considered an option by local community members. In addition, some of these engineered solutions have such low cost/benefit ratios, we have to ask whether buyouts are the more appropriate response.
- Local or community scale solutions. Determining if a flooding issue can be solved locally on the property can be difficult. Given that different sources of flooding, site strategies can be tried first.
- Leverage and agency coordination. Agencies dealing with low-income communities often don't have a complete picture and need to have more information on urban flooding and solutions. Discussion about figuring out how to collaborate most effectively, and knowing when to bring in the different partners. Agencies have already done plans in these areas, so they have shown where they see opportunities and RainReady is trying to build off that foundation.
- Businesses. Currently, RainReady for homeowners offers solutions that will work for business owners as well.
- Clean Water financing. Discussion about developing an Urban Flooding State Revolving Fund. EPA has changed their assessment and they think they can fund this type of work. Midlothian, looking at a stormwater fee but it has to be attached to improvements.

6.0 Sustainability Planning White Paper and Indicators Guide – Kristin Ihnchak, CMAP Staff

Over the past year, CMAP staff, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Seven Generations Ahead, have been developing a [Sustainability Planning White Paper](#). Ihnchak previously came before the committee (June 2014) and explained that CMAP staff had subsequently revisited the purpose and decided to tailor the product to cater to CMAP staff, municipal planners, and other professionals who are already familiar with planning processes, and builds upon a base of knowledge with the comprehensive

planning process to communicate the foundational steps of a sustainability planning process. The white paper identifies key sustainability topics and suggests potential strategies of impact to address those topic areas. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Ihnchak reviewed the paper's organization and how it was developed. She also explained the companion [Sustainability Indicators Guide](#), which recommends a suite of sustainability indicators for communities within our region to use to assess progress toward sustainability at the local level. The guide also sets forth a process for communities to use to establish baselines and targets.

ENR committee members asked a number of questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Sustainability deserts. Discussion about buy-in among different municipal governments. The MMC has reviewed municipal activities, highlighting those that are actively engaged on this topic.
- Water. Compliance or excellence from wastewater treatment plant point sources. DuPage Salt Creek Work Group has been working on this.
- Ethical nature of this work. Recommendation to include this in the introduction about the purpose of sustainability planning, that it about how we and other species can continue.
- Open Space and Ecosystem indicators.
 - Could add a degree of connectivity (identify core open space and the distance and the amount of connection between them.
 - Discussion about the standards for open space – metrics are often “acres per capita”, which has been used to say that an agency overbought land. The “per capita” part is not the only reason to be doing this. Perhaps separating it out so the recreational open space can be per capita, but the acres of wildlife and plant habitat could be used to recognize their intrinsic value.
- Transportation indicators. Discussion about the location of the roads in addition to VMT and mode share.
- Flooding damage and vulnerable populations. Could an indicator be designed to address these topics?
- Economy. The white paper discusses this topic, but for project practicality, the scope was limited to the more direct environmental indicators.

7.0 Other Business

Stacy Meyers encouraged committee members to attend and spread the word about the IDOT listening sessions. One can submit comments but the dialogue in the room is important too and it would be good for them to hear concerns about open space.

8.0 Public Comment

No public comments.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting ran late and smaller group adjourned.